GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department - Diversion of 1.01 ha of forest land for laying of OFC along existing road under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh, in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam – Permission - Accorded.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 5 **Dated: 27-01-2025**

Read the following:-

1)From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Rc.no.EFS02-15026/13/2018/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-3, dated 29.06.2023.
2)State Govt.Lr.No.1381/Sec.II/2023/2135755, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated 26.07.2023.
3)From the GoI, MoEF&CC, IRO, Chennai (Sub-Office at Vijayawada), Lr.No.4-APB221/2023-VIJ/1168, dated 17.08.2023.
4)From PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15026/2/2024-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, dated 26.11.2024.
5)State Govt.Lr.No.1381/Sec.II/2023/2135755, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated 20.12.2024.
6)From the GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, Chennai, Lr.F.No.4-APB221/2023-VIJ/09, dated 16.01.2025.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a statutory proforma proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 1.01 ha of forest land for laying of OFC along existing road under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh, in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, was sent to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, for according in-principle approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai (Sub-office at Vijayawada), have accorded in-principle approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the proposal, subject to compliance with the conditions stipulated therein.

4. In the letter 4th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval for onward submission to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, Chennai, for issuance of final approval for the above proposal and the same has been forwarded to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, Chennai, for the grant of final approval under section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in the letter 5th read above.

5. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai, have accorded final approval under Section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 1.01 ha of forest land for laying of OFC along existing road under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh, in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam, subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

6. Government, after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 1.01 ha of forest land for laying of OFC along existing road under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh, in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam, subject to the following conditions:-

i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
ii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
iii. The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over an extent of i.e.2.10 ha (within the 2.64 ha) of degraded forest area in Compartment No.19, Rudrakota RF, Kavali Range, Nellore Division at the cost of the User Agency;
iv. Identified CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
v. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
vi. No tree felling shall be carried out in the diverted forest area;
vii. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;
viii. As the part of the area i.e. 0.23 ha Eco-Sensitive Zone of Sri Penusila Narasimha Wild Life Sanctuary, the State Govt./User Agency shall obtain necessary approval under applicable law/rules/orders including procedural/regulatory requirements under Eco-Sensitive Zone;
ix. Outside proposed diversion area, no tree felling/road activity should be allowed and for any temporary usage of existing forest road necessary permission from DFO may be obtained;
x. The dug-out material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area;
xi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
xii. The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to laborers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling and no labour camp shall be established inside the forest area;
xiii. Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
xiv. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **1.01 Ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal.
xv. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
xvi. The User Agency and the State Forest Department shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
xvii. Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDG (Central) of Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
xviii. The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the guidelines issued under Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with;
xix. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G. ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.
Copy to:
The Chief Executive Officer,
National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and
Planning Authority, 4th Floor, Block No.3, CGO Complex,
New Delhi – 110 003.

The Inspector General of Forests,
ROHQ Division, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),
GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai,
Green House Complex,
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada – 520 010.

M/s Jio Digital Fibre Pvt.Ltd.,
4th Floor, Balaji's Mangalagiri Chambers,
VIP Road, Siripuram, Visakhapatnam – 530 003.

SC/SF.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER